

Message Text

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45

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 SCS-03

L-02 NSA-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

INR-05 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /071 W

----- 092429

R 131516Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2153

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PL, US, DA

SUBJECT: LOT FLIGHT'S EMERGENCY LANDING IN COPENHAGEN

1. ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON NOVEMBER 12 FRONT-PAGED A STORY BY ITS CORRESPONDENT IN DENMARK CONCERNING AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN THAT CITY BY A LOT IL-62 AIRCRAFT ON NEW YORK TO WARSAW RUN FLIGHT 007. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF AN UNNAMED PASSENGER WHO SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK IN FLIGHT. AT THE PILOT'S REQUEST TWO POLISH-AMERICAN PHYSICIANS ATTENDED THE VICTIM IN FLIGHT AND DECLARED HIS CONDITION "UNUSUALLY SERIOUS". ACCORDINGLY, THE PILOT DECIDED TO LAND AT COPENHAGEN'S KASTRUP AIRPORT, ABOUT AN HOUR AWAY. DESPITE CLOSE COORDINATION WITH GROUND FACILITIES TO ARRANGE IMMEDIATE TRANSFER TO A HOSPITAL, THE PATIENT ULTIMATELY DIED. THE DATE OF THE INCIDENT IS NOT GIVEN, ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE IS DATELINED NOVEMBER 11.

2. THE ARTICLE EMPHASIZES THAT "EVERYTHING IN HUMAN POWER" WAS DONE TO SAVE THE VICTIMS'S LIFE AND POINTS
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OUT THAT THE PILOT'S DECISION WILL COST LOT "MANY

THOUSANDS" OF KRONER IN AIRPORT AND FUEL CHARGES. IT NOTES THAT INTERNATIONAL LAW PROVIDES NO FINANCIAL RELIEF AND STRESSES ALSO THAT NO ONE IS IN A POSITION TO TAKE SUCH A DECISION FOR THE PILOT OR TO RELIEVE HIM OF THE RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD HIS DECISION PROVE PREMATURE OR ERRONEOUS.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE STRUCK BY THE PROMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN TO THIS INCIDENT AND THE DEFENSIVE AND AGGRIEVED TONE USED IN DESCRIBING THE AIRLINES FINANCIAL LOSS AND THE HEAVY BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY PLACED ON THE PILOT. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE MAY BE ALLEGING NEGLIGENCE ON THE AIRLINES PART OR THREATENING LEGAL ACTION. THE ARTICLE DOES NOT INDICATE THE NATIONALITY OF THE STRICKEN PASSENGER AND WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN WHETHER COPENHAGEN HAS A RECENT REPORT OF DEATH OF A US CITIZEN WHICH MEETS THIS DESCRIPTION.
DAVIES

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